tapol
British Campaign for the Defence of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia

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Honorary President: Lord Avebury; Honorary Treasurer: Tom Soper; Organising Secretary: Carmel Budiardjo

10 November 1986

Engo. Pires de Miranda,
Minister of Foreign Affairs
c/o Portuguese Embassy,
11 Belgrave Square,
London SW1

Dear Minister,

TAPOL takes the opportunity of your visit to London today to draw to your attention our deep and continuing concern about the fate of the four East Timorese students, Antonino Goncalves, Joao Freitas da Camara, Abilio Serena and Fernando Soares who have applied for Portuguese passports so as to leave Indonesia immediately and go to Portugal.

Two of the four have already been subjected to arrest and maltreatment by the Indonesian security authorities. All four clearly consider themselves to be in grave danger of further persecution by the Indonesian authorities and should therefore be helped to leave Indonesia without delay. Were they not in danger, they would never have taken the extreme step of trying to obtain the protection of the Dutch Embassy in Jakarta while their applications for Portuguese passports are processed. It is a matter of deep disappointment to us that the Dutch Embassy failed to give them this protection and, instead, insisted that they leave the Embassy building.

We now know that the students have been harassed and intimidated by the Indonesian authorities since they left the Embassy, and we believe that their lives are in danger as long as they remain in the Indonesian capital.

We therefore call upon you to instruct the Dutch Embassy in Jakarta to issue passports to the four students without delay and to make all the necessary arrangements for them to depart for Lisbon immediately thereafter.

We respect the fact that the Portuguese Government has, on several occasions, categorically expressed its concern for the fate of the people of East Timor and urge you to manifest that concern by helping the four students in their hour of need.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Budiardjo

Carmel Budiardjo,
Organising Secretary.

DESPATCH FROM=DJAKARTA =
BY=PETER HIETT =
FN TEL CALL 0550 TAPE NO.42 217

TL 6483-58

N.324=EAST TIMOR STUDENTS =
CUE: Four students who took refuge in the Dutch Embassy in Djakarta on Monday have left. A Dutch Embassy statement said they left voluntarily yesterday accompanied by the rector of the university in Djakarta where three of them are students. The students are originally from East Timor, the former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia ten years ago. Peter Hiett reports from Djakarta.

The Dutch Embassy here has displayed embarrassment throughout this affair and it announced its end in a brief press statement. It said the four men had presented themselves at the Embassy on Monday saying they wanted to go to Portugal. Following discussions yesterday between the Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr Mochtar and his visiting Dutch counterpart, Mr Hans van den Broek, the men had left the Embassy yesterday of their own accord and accompanied by the rector of Atma Jaya university in Djakarta where three of them are students. Dr Mochtar had given an assurance that the four men would not be prosecuted and they'd gone to stay at the house of a relative. Meanwhile their application for Portuguese passports would be submitted to the Portuguese authorities at the earliest date. The statement did not give the men's names, but two of them were among a group of three East Timor students at Atma Jaya university who were arrested last month and whose release without charge Dr Mochtar announced last week. He said they had been picked up for illegal firearms possession but the three were widely identified as being former members of the Marxist separatist group, Fretilin. Since Indonesia's annexation of East Timor, Holland has been looking after Portuguese interests here. It has already processed some three thousand such passport applications but the men will need approval

from Portugal as well as exit visas from the Indonesian authorities before being allowed to leave the country.